REMARKS

Claims 1 – 5, 8, 9, 13 – 15, 18, 19, 23 – 25, 28, 29, 33 – 35, 38, 39 and 43 – 45 are

currently pending and under examination. By this amendment, claims 5 - 7, 10 – 12, 15 - 17, 20

– 22, 25 - 27, 30 –32, 35 - 37, 40 – 42 and 46-55 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 14,

18, 19, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 34, 38, 39 and 43 - 45 have been amended. Claims 1, 13, 23, 33 and

43 are independent. Accordingly, by this amendment claims 1 - 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 23, 24,

28, 29, 33, 34, 38, 39 and 43 - 45 are currently pending and under examination.

Applicants and Applicants' representatives wish to thank Primary Examiner Frank Lu for

the courtesy extended during the July 27, 2007 telephonic interview. At the interview

Applicants' representatives discussed Examiner Lu's claim amendment suggestions to bring the

application in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18,

19, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 34, 38, 39 and 43 - 45 as discussed during the July 27, 2007 Interview.

Applicants have amended the preamble to claims 1, 13, 23 and 33 and claims 1(f), 13(e),

23(e) and 33(e) to clarify that the sample is a "nucleic acid containing" sample. Support for

these amendments can be found *inter alia* at paragraph [0058] in the application as originally

filed.

Applicants have amended claims 1(b), 13(b), 23(b) and 33(b) to replace "circle" with

"circular oligonucleotide probe" to maintain proper antecedent basis. Applicants have amended

claim 43(a) to replace "circle" with "circular nucleic acid sequence" to maintain proper

antecedent basis. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claims 1(c)(i), 1(f), 13(b)(i), 13(c)(i), 13(e), 23(b)(ii), 33(c)(ii),

44 and 45 to clarify that the signal generating moiety is "selected from the group consisting of a

fluorescent agent and a chemiluminescent agent." Support for these amendments can be found *inter alia* at paragraph [00180] in the application as originally filed.

Applicants have amended claims 1(f), 13(e), 23(e), 33(e) and 45 to clarify that the detection is "of the signal" to maintain proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 14, 24 and 34 to clarify that the circular oligonucleotide probe is formed "whereupon binding to the target nucleic acid, the 3' and 5' ends of the linear oligonucleotide probe are adjacent to each other such that ligation of the 3' and 5' ends of the linear oligonucleotide probe form the circular oligonucleotide probe." Support for these amendments can be found *inter alia* at paragraph [00134] in the application as originally filed.

Applicants have amended claims 8, 13(b), 18, 23(b)(c)(e), 28, 33(b)(e), and 38 to clarify that the circular probe is a circular "oligonucleotide" probe to maintain proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claims 8, 9, 18, 19, 28, 29, 38 and 39 to clarify that RAM is "ramification-extension amplification method." Support for these amendments can be found *inter alia* at paragraph [0058] in the application as originally filed.

Applicants have amended claim 43(c) to read "circular nucleic acid sequence" and not "circular oligonucleotide nucleic acid sequence" to maintain proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if any fee is due the amount of such fee may be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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